

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend claims 28 and 42 as indicated in the listing of claims.

Please cancel claims 41 and 53 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of the claims:**

1.-27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently amended) A method of reducing viral load of a herpes infection in an interstitial space of a mammal, ~~the method~~ comprising:

~~identifying a mammal suspected of having been infected by a herpes virus in an interstitial space;~~

~~providing said a mammal suspected of having been infected by a herpes virus in an interstitial space~~ an amount of a pharmaceutical composition consisting essentially of beta-cyclodextrin; and

measuring the reduction of the viral load of herpes in the interstitial space of the mammal.

29.-30. (Canceled).

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin is 2-OH-propyl-beta-cyclodextrin.

32.-33. (Canceled).

34. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising administering to the mammal an amount of a cholesterol lowering agent effective to reduce the level of serum cholesterol in the mammal.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin is provided intravenously.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin is provided by a bolus injection.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin is infused into the mammal over a period of at least two minutes.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin is provided in at least two intravenous administrations separated by an interval of at least one hour.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin is provided in at least four intravenous administrations separated by an interval of at least 12 hours.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin is provided with at least one antiviral agent.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the method comprises measuring the titer of the envelope herpes virus before providing the beta-cyclodextrin.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the method comprises measuring an immune response in the mammal against the herpes virus after providing the beta-cyclodextrin.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the method comprises measuring an immune response in the mammal against the herpes virus before providing the beta-cyclodextrin.

45.-48. (Canceled).

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the herpes virus is human herpes virus 1.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the herpes virus is human herpes virus 2.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the envelope virus is a poxvirus.

52.-54. (Canceled).

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a bacterium.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a mycobacterium.

57. (Canceled).

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a fungus.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a protozoan.

60.-72. (Canceled).